



Family



Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 20 Number 2

Newsletter

February 2017

AFFM Presents the 20th Annual Spring Training Conference:

Improving Communication Today; Offering Hope for Tomorrow

April 21st to April 22nd

Hilton Garden Inn

250 Haskell Rd, Bangor, ME 04401

Conference Information Inside! Register Today!

Introducing The Keynote Speakers

Donna Butts has been the Executive Director of Generations United (GU) since 1997. Previously she served in leadership positions at several youth serving organizations including the YWCA, National 4-H Council, and Covenant House. An internationally known speaker, author and advocate, Butts frequently addresses intergenerational connections, grandparents raising grandchildren and policies effective across the lifespan. She has served on four United Nations expert panels. Butts is a graduate of Stanford University's Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders and she was recognized in 2012, 2013 and 2014 by The Nonprofit Times as one of the Top 50 most powerful and influential nonprofit executives in the nation.



Dr. Ken Huey has been working with troubled youth since 1994. He started his career in the helping professions as a therapist in community mental health. He then spent time in a private practice where he did custody evaluations and provided expert witness testimony for courts in Indiana. Upon graduating from Purdue with his Ph.D., Dr. Huey worked as a therapist, Clinical Director, and Business Development Director in residential treatment. This changed the course of his career. Being adopted himself, Dr. Huey was always drawn to the large population of other adoptees in residential treatment. He ultimately became convinced that this population needed specialty care and in November of 2006, Dr. Huey founded Calo. Calo grew to a 200 plus employee organization with about the same numbers of teen clients served each year. He sold Calo and retired in

June of 2015. He came out of retirement in 2017 and founded Kokua Recovery, residential drug and alcohol treatment headquartered in the Boulder, Colorado area. Dr. Huey presents at conferences around the country on issues of trauma, parenting, recovery, and residential care. He served on the boards of the Attachment and Trauma Network (ATN), the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (NATSAP), and the Association for Treatment of Trauma in the Attachment of Children (ATTACH). He and his wife, Jo, live in Linn Creek, Missouri, and are the parents of 6 children. They recently welcomed their first grandchild into the family.

Conference Workshops

Friday, April 21st, registration is open from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. The Keynote Presentation is from 8:30 am to 10 :00 am. Awards will be presented during lunch at 12:30 pm. On Saturday, April 22nd Check in's are between 8:00 am to 8:30 am followed by the Keynote Presentation at 8:30 am.

Lunch will be provided on site at 12:00 on Saturday, April 22nd.

Friday, April 21st Morning Workshops (10:10 am— 12:10 pm)

A. Trauma Informed Addiction Treatment: Healing the Soul, Not Just the Behavior

Presented by Dr. Ken Huey

The roots of addiction are not found in genes but in the childhood environment. Developmental trauma and its impact on relationships and relationship formation drives later addictive behavior. This presentation will consider how trauma creates fertile ground for later addiction. It will then provide a trauma-informed template for healing the soul of an addict, creating change from the inside out

B. Allegation Prevention Protocol

Presented by Bette Hoxie

This work shop will assist families in asking "the right questions" prior to placement, provide helpful hints on what and when to document events, provide creative ways to prioritize and/or reduce conflicts between adults and children, provide a basic understanding of confidentiality rules, and the respecting and valuing of privacy.

C. Meeting the Health Care Needs of Maine's Children in Care

Presented by Adriane Carmack

Initial presentation by Dr. Adrienne Carmack, MD on the health care needs of children in out of home placements, including foster care and kinship placements will be followed by panel discussion. The Panel will consist of medical and mental health providers familiar with caring for children in foster care, as well as representatives from the Office of Child and Family Services. The panel will discuss statewide initiatives to meet the health care needs of children in foster care in Maine. Time will be allowed for case presentations, questions and discussion.

Friday, April 21st Afternoon Workshops (2:00 pm— 4:00 pm)

D. Retirement Vs. Raising Grandchildren: Opiates and Options

Presented by Donna Butts & The Kinship Panel

This workshop will provide a state and national perspective about the increase in kinship care (indicatively due to the increase use of opiates). The panel will consist of kinship family advocates, a kinship parent, and a lawyer versed in kinship legal issues. The panel will share their life experiences and provide information as to what worked well for them. During this training participants will receive guidance and resources on how to approach some of the most difficult situations experienced by kinship families.

E. "Can You Hear Us Now?"

Presented by the Youth Leadership Advisory Team

"In this workshop we will practice strategies and activities that can help caring adults engage youth in planning and preparing for meetings and decisions about their lives, while building personal connection with the young person. This workshop was developed with OCFS staff and youth in care and has been delivered to caseworkers across the state. This session will be facilitated in partnership with youth in care."

F. Successfully Working with Birth Families

Presented by Cindy Downey

After completing this training participants will be able to: Identify how perception can have negative and positive impacts on relationships with birth parents; List 4 Types of permanence in foster care and the impact on the child ; Discuss the importance of communication in the foster parent/birth parent relationship; Identify how Fostering Triangles impact communication within the foster/adoptive system; Identify ways to build and maintain relationships with birth parents.

Saturday, April 22nd Morning Work Shops (10:00 am—12:00 pm)

G. Trauma & Substance Use, Abuse and Addiction

Presented by Cindy Downey

After completing this training participants will be able to: Identify how trauma experiences can impact drug and alcohol use in teens; Identify risk factors for substance abuse; List protective factors against substance abuse; Discuss treatment for substance abuse and /or addiction.

H. Parents, Kids and Dating Abuse

Presented by The Hope & Justice Project

This workshop will focus on teen dating abuse. You will learn how to recognize it, reject it and respond to it though a very interactive setting that will include a 16 Person Skit and a demonstration of "Where Do We Stand". Concluding with a conversation that looks at victims, their circle of support and safety planning techniques for all those affected.

I. Preplacement Planning; Communicating what's best for your family

Presented by Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

This training will help participants know and understand the questions to ask before, during, and after a child moves into their home. Participants will gain skills and strategies that families can use to increase their success with transitions. AFFM will share a variety of supports that can be provided to the family when a child transitions into care.

Saturday, April 22nd Afternoon Work Shops (1:20 pm— 3:20 pm)

J. Sensory Integration

Presented by Ryan & Bethany Whitehouse

Sensory Integration is the body's process of taking in and organizing information from the environment in order to create an effective response. Kids with sensory integration dysfunction can't do this for a number of reasons. Learn to recognize the signs of modulation disorders, as well as the types of sensory defensiveness (auditory, visual, etc.) and how to make real life change in a kid's life and ability to learn

K. Transitions to Permanency

Presented By Barbara Ford

In this workshop participants will gain usable tools for making transitions as smooth and healthy as possible for everyone involved. These transition tools include dealing with the emotional aspects for Resource Parents of saying good-bye to children they have cared for, decision making in permanency planning, and tips for an ongoing relationships. This workshop is valuable for child welfare staff, as well as resource parents to explore and appreciate the roles of each person involved in the transition.

L. "There are No Strings on Me"; Building Bonds and Bridging Gaps for Healthy Attachments

Presented by Natalie Plourde

Embark on a journey with LCSW, Natali Plourde as she explores, through the life of Pinocchio, the trials and triumphs of severed attachment strings and remapped connections. Answers to questions like, what is attachment and what happens when attachment is interrupted, how do we know we need help, is there hope after you hear "attachment disorder" and how do I care for me while caring for them are the core elements of this engaging workshop. Whether the child in your care is yours for a season or a lifetime, whether it is you alone or an entire team, equip your child with the tools necessary to create and form healthy connections wherever their paths may take them.

Registration Form

Registrant 1 Name,	Registrant 2 Name,
Address,	Address,
Phone,	Phone,
Email,	Email,

Please Check All That Apply.

Foster: <input type="checkbox"/>	Adoptive: <input type="checkbox"/>	Kinship: <input type="checkbox"/>	Single (\$70): <input type="checkbox"/>	Couple (\$135): <input type="checkbox"/>	Child Welfare Professionals (\$85): <input type="checkbox"/>
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Registrant 1 Workshop Choices				Registrant 2 Workshop Choices			
Friday, April 21st		Saturday, April 22nd		Friday, April 21st		Saturday, April 22nd	
Morning Workshops		Morning Workshops		Morning Workshops		Morning Workshops	
1st choice	2nd Choice	1st choice	2nd Choice	1st choice	2nd Choice	1st choice	2nd Choice
A <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon Workshops		Afternoon Workshops		Afternoon Workshops		Afternoon Workshops	
D <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	J <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	J <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	K <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	K <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please Circle one Check Enclosed: Yes No **Bill Agency:** _____

Please Make Checks Payable to: AFFM

Please Check off Meals you will Attend: Friday Lunch ☐ Saturday Lunch ☐

Special Accommodations, allergies etc., Please Specify:

Please mail registration forms to: Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. 34 Main St. Orono, Maine
 04473 Or fax to 207-889-6978 or email info@affm.net . You can also Register online @
<http://www.affm.net>. If you any question please call AFFM 1-800-833-9786
 (For AFFM Staff only) Date received _____

Note. Conference cost includes both days, all meals, and all materials provided

Duffle Bags for Kids in Care!



Thank you to Asher Thompson a junior at Thornton Academy in Saco who created a service project which directly benefits youth in care. **Just 4 You bags**, aims to directly benefit foster care children ages 5-10 by providing every child a bag, a blanket, a stuffed animal, and a book. Asher reached his goal of putting together 50 duffle bags!

Thank you to Bridget Morningstar and Together We Rise for providing “Sweet Cases” to youth in care! Each duffle bag is filled with blankets, stuffed animals and hygiene kits suitable for kids ten and under.

Duffle bags are available at AFFM’s Saco and Orono offices. If you know of a youth in care who would benefit from a bag please email Meagan at meagan@affm.net

Babci’s Sacks of LOVE Initiative provides duffle bags and fresh baked home-made cookies for any youth (regardless of their age) who’s currently involved or has been involved with Maine’s foster care system. Babci’s Sacks of LOVE Initiative's express goal is to provide a new duffle bag which will replace trash bags being used by some youth to carry their belongings. **To obtain a request form please contact Janalee at janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com or call/text 207-423-4281 anytime!**



2017 AFFM Conference Nominations

AFFM is looking for you to nominate the workers and providers who have gone above and beyond with their efforts in working with families and children to reach permanency. Here are the following award categories:

- ♦ Guardian Ad Litem/ CASA of the year
- ♦ Private Agency Worker of the year
- ♦ Assessment Social Worker of the year
- ♦ Child Welfare Advocate of the year
- ♦ Permanency Worker of the year
- ♦ Resource Family of the year (one per district)
- ♦ Licensing Worker of the year
- ♦ Adoption Social Worker of the year
- ♦ Resource Family Supervisor of the year
- ♦ Program or Assistant Program Administrator of the year
- ♦ Kinship Advocate of the year

E-mail your nominations to travis@affm.net. Please include a detailed description as to why the nominee should receive the award. Thank you for your input and AFFM looks forward to honoring workers and families at their 20th Annual Spring Conference.

Enter to win a week's stay at Tamarack!

The Wilhelm Reich Museum is owned and operated by the Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust. This trust was established by world renowned scientist, Wilhelm Reich, in his last will and testament. The trust maintains the property at Orgonon under the name and style of the Wilhelm Reich Museum. On this land is his cabin, Tamarack. Mr. Reich's will also stated that Tamarack be used as a "summer home children." The trust has chosen a way to fulfill this final wish by making Tamarack available for adoptive, foster, and kinship families for six weeks in the summer! ***This opportunity is available to those that might not have another means of this type of vacation.*** Mary Higgins, trustee, works with AFFM on this opportunity annually.

The cabin is located on the grounds of Orgonon, formerly the home, laboratory, and research center of Wilhelm Reich. Orgonon is located just off of the Dodge Pond Road in Rangeley. Tamarack is about 75 yards away from Dodge Pond. The pond is a natural nesting place for loons, therefore, power boats, jet skis, and recreational vehicles (i.e. four wheelers) are all strictly prohibited. Rowboats and canoes are permitted. At the foot of the path leading to the pond is a floating platform, a great spot for shore fishing, sunbathing, and jumping in the water. The water is deep and the area is quite rocky. Children will require careful supervision and non-swimmers will require life jackets.

Tamarack is a large, charming, 3 bedroom, 1 bath cabin with a comfortable interior. Tamarack has a complete kitchen with a full size refrigerator and gas stove, and a beautiful living room with a stone fireplace. The camp does not have a phone but is now equipped with a television. Families need to provide their own food and bedding.

Eligibility Requirements: You must not own or have access to a summer camp, time-share, or RV. Also, if you have been a Tamarack winner in 2015 and 2016, we ask that you not apply. Many families want to utilize Tamarack. It is necessary that any winners who cannot attend please notify AFFM at least one week in advance. It is important to have time to find an alternate family and give them time to prepare for their vacation, so this beautiful cabin can be enjoyed throughout the heart of the summer.



"2017 Weeklong Summer Vacation at Tamarack Entry Form"

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ # of Children: _____

Please circle the weeks below that your family would be able to attend:

May 27-June 3 June 3-10 June 10-17 June 17-24 June 24-July 1 July 1-8

Mail Entries to: Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine 34 Main Street, Orono, ME 04473

Entries must be received by March 30, 2017. The drawing will be held April 3, 2017 and winners will be notified by phone or email by April 10, 2017.

Adoption Announcement!

Nancy and Rheal Tardif are excited to announce the adoption of Gaige Tardif on December 22, 2016! Gaige is the 5th child the Tardif's have adopted!



Have you recently legalized an adoption? Want to share the exciting news with others? AFFM would love to create an adoption announcement in the Family Ties newsletter. Send a write up and photo (if you wish) to meagan@affm.net. AFFM looks forward to hearing from you!

WIC Nutrition Program

WIC is a nutrition program for thousands of Maine families, helping Maine kids to grow up strong and healthy. WIC food benefits are available based on income guidelines and up-to-date nutrition research. This website seeks to serve all Maine families with free nutrition advice, tips for staying healthy, and resources for growing families.

Who can apply for the Maine WIC Nutrition Program?

WIC is open to anyone living in Maine, including migrants working in Maine. Applicants can be any of the following:

- Women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or had a baby in the last six months.
- Infants and children up to the age of five, including adopted and foster children.
- Fathers may apply for their children.



How do I apply?

Getting WIC benefits is simple. Call your nearest WIC office to make an appointment. Your first appointment will take about an hour of your time – an hour that can benefit you and your children for the rest of your lives. Click here to find the nearest WIC office:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/health-equity/wic/Applicants/Where-do-I-apply.shtml>

WIC Prescreening Tool

Find out if you are eligible for the WIC program by clicking on the following link:

<http://wic.fns.usda.gov/wps/pages/start.jsf>

Kinship Corner

With all the snow outside, what better time than now to start thinking about warm weather and summer? AFFM's Summer Campership Program will be kicking off before you know it!

If you are interested in having your child/children attend summer camp give the office a call at 1-800-833-9786. AFFM would be happy to help in the search for scholarships and donated spots at a camp. Please be prepared to provide information about your child's interest, special needs and/or medical needs so we can find a camp that is best suited for him/her.

** Licensed families, DHHS may have funds available for youth in foster care to attend a week of summer camp. Please check with your caseworker before applying.*





Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine, Inc. **& The Kinship Program**

State-Wide Resource Family Support Groups

At times meetings are cancelled due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances, cancellation notices are sent out via the AFFM email list serve and Facebook. Families are urged to call or email info@affm.net to be added to this service. For more information and to RSVP for the support groups please call AFFM @ 1-800-833-9786 or 827-2331. AFFM asks families to RSVP 3-4 days in advance so the facilitator and childcare provider can plan accordingly.

Key: A= Adoptive, F=Foster, K= Kinship, CC= Child care is available upon request

Augusta – Kinship only/CC: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30 – 8:00 pm at the Buker Community Center (22 Armory Drive Augusta) call Jan Partridge at 207-495-3864.

Augusta – A/F/K/CC: 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Magic Years Center (25 Industrial Drive).

Bangor – Kinship only/CC. Facilitated by AFFM staff. 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 PM Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 540 Essex St. Bangor

Belfast— F/A/K/CC: 2nd Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at U. Maine Hutchinson Center (rooms 133 & 129) 80 Belmont Ave.

Berwick— F/A/K/CC: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at Berwick Town Hall (11 Sullivan St.)

Biddeford – Kinship only/CC: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10:00–11:30am @ J Richard Martin Community Center, 189 Alfred St.

Bridgton – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Community Care (Behind Reny's) 15 Depot St. RSVP Vanessa Jones 647-2317

Brunswick – A/F/K/CC: Last Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:00 pm at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 25 Pleasant St. Meetings are not held during Summer.

Damariscotta— F/A/K: 1st Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Skidompha Library (184 Main St).

Dover-Foxcroft – A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Mayo Regional Hospital, Borestone & Sebec rm.

Ellsworth – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Moore Community Center (133 State St.) RSVP Mindy Kane, CHCS 263-2014 or 461-8878

Farmington – A/F/K/CC: every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6 – 7:30 pm @ Roberts Learning Center (room 107, 203 & 207), UMF.

Lewiston – A/F/K/CC: every 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at 200 Main Street Lewiston.

Lincoln – A/F/K/CC: 1st Thursday of the month from 6:00–7:30PM at the Community Evangel Temple, 124 River Rd.

Machias – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ University of Maine Machias Torrey Hall Rooms 228 & 230

Norridgewock— A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at First Congregational Church (36 River Road).

Orono – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at AFFM (34 Main Street Orono).

Portland— A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at 901 Washington Ave. Portland.

Presque Isle – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Wesleyan Church (387 Centerline Rd.)

Rockland—A/F/K/CC: 4th Monday of the month at 6:00PM-7:30PM @ the Rockland Public Library (80 Union St)

Saco—A/F/K/CC: 4th Wednesday of the month from 5:30PM-7:00PM at AFFM's Saco office (333 Lincoln Street).

Sherman – A/F/K: 1st Monday of the month at 7 Cow Team Road in Sherman. Please contact Debbie Irish at 365-7133 for more information. This group does not meet in the summer.

South Paris— A/F/K/CC: 1st Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:00PM at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension (9 Olson Road).

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.
34 Main Street, Orono, ME 04473

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Affiliated With:
The North American Council on Adoptable Children
National Foster Parent Association
Generations United

Partnering With: Department of Health and Human Services

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COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMIY TIES, AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

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**Adoptive & Foster
Families of Maine, Inc.**
& The Kinship Program

New Resource Families Welcome! You are now receiving the Family Ties newsletter as part of your complimentary membership to AFFM! Learn more about AFFM and services offered by calling 1-800-833-9786 or visit www.affm.net

Locations: 34 Main Street, Orono, Maine

& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco. Maine

Phone: 1-800-833-9786

Email: info@affm.net

After Hour Emergency Support: 207-745-4159

Website: www.affm.net

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